



Light Reading

January 2007

South Central
Indiana REMC

"Member owned and operated since 1939"

What's inside ...

- Sensors Contribute to Purchase of Security System
- Wholesale Power Tracker to Rise
- Right-of-Way Schedule for 2007
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- Survey Planned in 2007

Don't forget to look for the account number hidden in one of this month's stories. If it's yours, call us. You'll win \$50!

Environmental Sensors Contribute to Security System Purchase by Brown County Resident

Typically, purchasing a home security system is a result of a feared intrusion or safety for your family and possessions. Recently one Brown County resident proclaimed the reason for purchasing their home security system was solely for the environmental safety the system afforded them.

"The burglary and intrusion features were a bonus with the system," said Susanne Gaudin, a Brown County resident. "Our main reason for purchasing not just one but three systems, was to protect our homes from fire and water damage." The Gaudins have three properties, each of which has an SCI Security alarm system.

"We have a large home where one of the water heaters is on the third floor," noted Susanne. "One day when we were away, the water heater burst. The floor drain was left inoperable resulting in hundreds of gallons of water filtering through every floor of the house. Damage was extensive—not to mention costly."

"We were also concerned about fire safety. Typical home smoke detectors are great, but what if we're not home to hear them? Our nearest neighbor is a quarter-mile away. By the time anyone could see smoke, our home would be destroyed and our indoor pets



REMC member Susanne Gaudin makes her feelings about SCI REMC's products clear. "They believe in their products, and so do I."

would have perished.

Knowing that the sheriff and fire departments are notified directly by the security monitoring company is a great relief to us."

When the Gaudins learned of the security system's programmable environmental sensors, they were relieved to find a product that would help prevent any future damage to their home. Environmental sensors can include freeze detectors, rate-of-rise, smoke, water level and carbon monoxide, just to name a few.

continued on page 2: see Security System Purchase

South Central Indiana REMC wants to get to know you better. Information about the types of heating and cooling systems, electronic devices and appliances used by our consumers is helpful as

SCI REMC develops plans to provide reliable and efficient electric service through-out our communities.

We'd like to know you better!

During January and February, approximately 400 SCI REMC

consumers will be contacted by telephone from our survey representative to obtain information from you on ways you use electricity and other information.

The information obtained will help your electric cooperative in planning future power delivery facilities and developing marketing programs that are of value to our customers.

Should you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact us at 765-342-3344, or 800-264-7362.

Security System Purchase *cont'd from page 1*

Your home security system can even monitor for power outages, which is a great feature for seasonal homes or homeowners who travel frequently and worry that power may go out while they're gone. Whether you're an REMC member or use another utility, SCI Security will notify your power provider if an outage is detected. The additional monthly charge for the service is well worth it for the added protection.

SCI Security's basic system comes with a phone surge protector to shield the panel from lightning strikes, and for \$179 installed, also includes a touchpad, CPU, three door sensors, an interior siren, and a key fob. As an added benefit, this wireless entry remote can also be used as a police panic.

The Gaudins have been a member of SCI REMC for more than 20 years. They built their dream home in scenic Brown County and settled down in the picturesque community. However, Susanne Gaudin is not an ordinary member, she is an extraordinary member!

Susanne has sat on the board of SCI Services, LLC, for the past five years. (SCI Services is a wholly-owned subsidiary of South Central Indiana REMC and offers ancillary products and services including

security systems for homes and businesses, medical alerts, long distance service and metered propane gas.) Not only is Susanne active on the board, she is also a big proponent of the REMC products and services. She has their seamless Marathon water heater, the Scalltrol water treatment system, surge protection, and weather radio, and used the electrical services of the REMC to have her back-up generator installed. In addition to the home security system, she also uses SCI Services long distance service.

"I pay the same price as any other member or customer for the products and services offered by the REMC and SCI, LLC," said Susanne. "I know they only offer quality products and services at a reasonable cost to their members and customers. They believe in their products and so do I."

Susanne Gaudin is one example of how being a member of a cooperative has its privileges. Members can sit on a board, vote for directors, and provide one-on-one feedback. Additionally, members are offered valuable rebates and other products and services at just about or slightly above cost.

For more information on SCI Security systems or other products and services, visit our website at www.sciservices.coop.



Peace on earth

Right-of-Way Scheduling for 2007

To help maintain power line rights-of-way, South Central Indiana REMC utilizes a staff of five certified arborists and professional line clearance staff from SCI Services, LLC, a subsidiary of SCI REMC, to oversee the vegetation management completed on the Cooperative's distribution and transmission system. The program is managed by our SCI REMC supervisor Larry Terrell and his assistant Randy Brumfield.

SCI REMC right-of-way maintenance program is needed to ensure public safety, protect our power lines from damage, and maintain a continuous flow of electricity to our members. Right-of-way maintenance work (hidden number 1779002301) includes the removing of trees near our power lines, removal of brush under the conductors, and the removal of dead or other hazard trees that may fall on our lines.

For more information about our vegetation management program, visit our website at www.sciremc.coop.

SCI REMC's award-winning right-of-way crew (shown below) maintains power line clearances to ensure public safety and protect lines from damage.

2007 Right-of-Way Schedule

- Princes Lake
- East Madison
- Brooklyn
- Hart Lake
- Heartland
- Mooresville



Goodwill Toward Men



Happy New Year from the Board of Directors, Management, Staff, and Employees of South Central Indiana REMC

Techno Response Updates

Notice to SCI Services Security Customers

WH, our security response center, has recently adopted the Enhanced Call Verification (ECV) program to assist in preventing false alarms sent to police for dispatching.

When using ECV, WH will call two phone numbers to verify alarm prior to dispatching. On average, this will delay the dispatch by less than 30 seconds. (Panic, holdup and other initiated alarms will be handled under the normal dispatch instructions and are not included in the ECV program.)

Please be sure your contact information is current. If you do not list a secondary contact number, WH will use one of your alternate contact phone numbers as a secondary call number.

For questions, contact Nora at 765-352-4765 or email to noral@sciremc.com.

Wholesale power tracker to rise

Energy costs overall remain significantly higher than levels of two years ago. And although gasoline prices declined following the summer peak driving season, prices are climbing higher again.

South Central Indiana REMC and other Indiana electric cooperatives have worked hard over the past two years to minimize volatility in your power costs and gradually pass along higher costs. In addition, we have taken steps to improve efficiencies and reduce costs associated with distributing electricity to your homes and businesses.

Rates will be increasing over the next few months; however, electricity remains a great value when compared to other forms of energy. According to the Energy Information Administration, electricity prices nationally rose about 27% over the last 20 years while natural gas went up 108% and gasoline increased 91%.

For the past three years, your monthly electric bill has included a power cost tracker from Hoosier Energy, the wholesale power supplier for your REMC and 16 other Indiana electric cooperatives. The tracker is adjusted quarterly. The next adjustment will occur in January 2007 and be reflected on your February, March and April bills. With the January tracker revision, the monthly bill for a customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours will be about \$2.20 higher than current charges.

Hoosier Energy uses the power cost tracker to level out large swings in electricity and fuel prices while recovering costs in today's volatile energy environment. The tracker is an additional charge for each kilowatt-hour that your Cooperative purchases from our power supplier and is passed on to our members. The tracker does not result in additional margins for your Cooperative, but is simply a pass-through of increases in the power we purchase for you.

Electric cooperatives across the country are working together to increase electricity supply, improve reliability and efficiency and find new or alternative energy options that are cost-effective. As always, the objective of your electric cooperative and Hoosier Energy is to deliver reliable electricity at a reasonable cost.

We are currently developing additional rate options & programs that will assist our members in reducing their monthly electric bill. Watch for these new option announcements in our Light Reading newsletter or on line at www.sciremc.coop.

In addition, we recently reduced the additional charge associated with participating in our green power program, EnviroWatts. Please contact our office or visited our website for information regarding our green power program.

Factors affecting energy cost increases in Indiana and across the country

- Rising demand
- Higher fuel cost
- Power grid and equipment investments
- Increasing regulations
- Volatile wholesale market

For more information, visit our website at www.sciremc.com.

Light Reading

Here when
you need
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Call before you dig
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Have a question,
comment or
concern for us?
Call, write, e-mail
or visit our office.

Report a Power Outage

1. Call 1-800-264-7362, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
2. Provide the address and telephone number of the outage location.
3. Tell us, if you know, how the outage occurred: tree or line down, ice, etc.
4. Don't hang up! If you reach an automated answering service, please leave a message.